

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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64

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8518

S E C R E T LISBON 6286

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, PO,OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER TO VISIT
PORTUGAL

1. BERNARDINO GOMES, WHO FUNCTIONS AS PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO PRIME MINISTER SOARES, PHONED ME THIS AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 14, TO INFORM ME THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD JUST VOTED A RESOLUTION STATING THAT THEY WOULD BE "GREATLY INTERESTED" IN HAVING A VISIT TO PORTUGAL BY SECRETARY KISSINGER. GOMES SAID THE FORMAL INVITATION WOULD BE CONVEYED TO US BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, BUT HE WANTED TO LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' DECISION.

2. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT GOP HOPED TO ARRANGE VISIT BY EUROPEAN FOREIGN MINISTER PRIOR TO POSSIBLE VISIT BY SECRETARY IN ORDER TO REINFORCE THE "EUROPEAN OPTION" POLICY OF THE PRESENT GOP. PRESS HAS JUST ANNOUNCED VISIT THIS FRIDAY BY DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL. DUTCH AMBASSADOR INFORMED ME HE EXPECTED LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE TO COME OUT OF VISIT; ONE OF ITS MAIN PURPOSES IS TO OPEN THE DOOR FOR POSSIBLE SUBSEQUENT VISITS, PARTICULARLY ONE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER.

3. I RECOGNIZE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE IS PROBABLY FULLY COMMITTED, BUT IF A BREAK OCCURS SOMEWHERE IN THE NEAR FUTURE I WOULD HOPE HE COULD COME. I REGRET THE IN-

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CONVENIENCES CAUSED BY PREVIOUS ABORTIVE EFFORTS TO
ARRANGE A VISIT BUT AM CONVINCED THEY WERE DUE TO VERY

LEGITIMATE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, THAT SECRETARY
WOULD RECEIVE A WARM WELCOME AND THAT VISIT, EVEN A
BRIEF ONE, WOULD BE A VERY POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO
USG-GOP RELATIONS.
CARLUCCI

SECRET

NNN

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